

Lunesdale Rural District Council

REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year
1943.

Lunesdale Rural District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Lunesdale Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1943 on
the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District.

This Report includes that of your Sanitary Inspector and
his staff, so far as their activities relate to Health and Sanitary
matters.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. TOMB,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. A. TOMB, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

E. ELLIS, Cert. R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector's Assistant :

L. J. PEARSON, Cert. Sanitary Science, Cert. Meat and Foods,
Liverpool University School Hygiene.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector :

H. BOARDLEY, Cert. R.S.I. (on active service).

I. General Statistics of the Area :

AREA of the District (Acres)	76,099
POPULATION (Census 1931)	6,575
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate 1943)	6,746
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1931)	1,633
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1942)	1,814
RATEABLE VALUE	£42,079

The chief industries of the inhabitants of the District are :—

Agriculture.

Manufacture of Textiles (Cotton and Artificial Silk).

Brick Manufacture.

There is no unemployment in the District.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births (Legitimate)	100	52	48
(Illegitimate)	7	4	3
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TOTAL	107	56	51

Birth-Rate per 1,000 population 15.8

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still
births) 18.

Deaths 62 31 31

Stillbirths 2 1 1

Death-Rate per 1,000 of the esti-
mated resident population 9.1

Deaths from Puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
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TOTAL	Nil	Nil

Death-Rate of Infants under one year, per 1,000 live births :—

All	28
Legitimate	10
Illegitimate	285
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

	Per 1,000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		
	Live Birth-Rate.	Crude Death-Rate.	Death-Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death-Rate from Cancer.	Per 1,00 Live Births.	Per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.	Rate of Deaths under one year per 1,000 Live Births.
Mean of 5 years 1938-1942	12.9	13.1	0.11	1.61	6.38	6.29	57
Year — 1942	13.5	15.0	—	2.73	21.27	20.83	63
Year — 1943	15.8	*9.1	0.29	1.48	—	—	28
Increase or Decrease in 1943 on 5 yrs. Average, 1938-1942	+2.9	—4.0	+0.18	—0.13	—6.38	—6.29	—29
Previous year	+2.3	—5.9	+0.29	—1.25	—21.27	—20.83	—35

TUBERCULOSIS.

2 cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year :—
1 Pulmonary (1 male), 1 Non-Pulmonary (1 female).

This shows a decrease of 3 cases from the preceding year.

	Respiratory		Other Forms		Respiratory		Other Forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1943.

Disease	Under 1	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 35	35 — 45	45 — 65	65 — & Over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	3	—	—	—	9
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Measles	—	—	—	2	6	29	7	—	5	2	1	—	52
Whooping Cough	—	—	2	—	1	6	1	1	—	—	—	—	11
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	3
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio- encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED													83

Note :— Chicken-Pox is not notified in area.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table shows the position in regard to the number of children immunised against Diphtheria since the beginning of the year 1941.

Persons inoculated each year from 1941-44.

Age in years on 31st Dec. of the corresponding year	1941	1942	1943	Total Inoculated under 5 years on 31st Dec., 1943
Under 1	2	1	1	153
1	23	16	30	
2	24	12	14	
3	37	15	8	
4	35	9	7	Total Inoculated aged 5-14 yrs. on 31st Dec., 1943
5	68	14	11	
6	70	6	7	
7	76	12	10	
8	74	15	5	748
9	63	10	5	
10	72	11	8	
11	52	7	4	
12	45	11	6	Total Inoculated aged 15 yrs. and over on 31st Dec., 1943
13	49	2	1	
14	8	—	2	
15	1	—	—	
Total each year	699	141	119	GRAND TOTAL 959

All children between 1 yr. and 15 yrs. are offered free immunisation. Sessions are held at various places in the District (e.g., schools). There is a rota of general practitioners engaged by the District Council to perform immunisation.

Provision has been made for immunisation in homes by private practitioners, where children cannot attend centres.

The Prophylactic used is A.P.T. in two doses at a month's interval.

WATER SUPPLY.

The position as regards water supply is satisfactory. The chief source of supply is from the Thirlemere Aqueduct (Manchester Corporation). From this supply the following parishes derive a piped supply (90% of the population of these parishes are on the supply).

Arkholme-with-Cawood : Borwick : Burrow-with-Burrow :
Cantsfield : Caton-with-Littledale (Emergency supply only):
Gressingham: Halton: Ireby: Nether Kellet: Leck: Melling-
with-Wrayton: Tatham: Tunstall: Wennington: Whittington.

The Supply for Parishes of Hornby and Wray is as follows :

Authority from which supply is obtained.	District Council (Reservoir at Wray).
Nature of Supply.	Moorland. Upland Surface Water.
Satisfactory.	Yes.
Analysis.	Chemical. pH value 6.4. Permanent Hardness 2.5. Liable to plumbo solvent action.
Treatment.	By slow sand Filtration, and super chlorination and settlement.

The Supply for the Parish of Caton is as follows :

Authority from which supply is obtained.	Supply owned by the Council (Reservoir at Caton), also an emergency connection to the Thirlemere Aqueduct.
Nature of Supply.	Moorland and Upland surface Water.
Analysis.	pH 7.5. Permanent Hardness 4.0. Liable to plumbo-solvent action.
Treatment.	Filtration, settlement and Breakpoint Chlorination.

From the routine samples of this supply it was found that the mains of this Parish were bacteriologically contaminated. Exhaustive experiments were carried out, and it was decided to sterilise the water mains with chlorine gas. This work was most satisfactorily carried out by the Council's own officials, and this work along with a newer method of continual chlorination of the supply at its source, has produced a "Class I" water supply.

Parish of Over Kellet.

Parts of the Parish are supplied from wells and pumps. The remainder is supplied with a piped supply.

Authority from which
this piped supply is
obtained.

Carnforth Water Co. (Private Company).

Nature of Supply. Upland surface, and springs.

This supply is liable to animal pollution and is effectively treated by chlorination before delivery.

Bacteriological reports have been satisfactory.

As has been pointed out before, a very satisfactory supply to all parts of the Parish could be obtained from the Thirlemere Ageduct.

There were 22 Bacteriological Examinations and no Chemical Analysis made of the various supplies during the year.

During the year several farms in outlying districts have been supplied with water. Those farms have taken advantage of the War Agricultural Committee grants.

No. of Houses in the Rural District with piped supply	1196
No. of Houses in the Rural District without piped supply	681
No. of Houses in the Rural District within 100 yds. of water main, without piped supply	165

HOUSING.

(a) Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

(a) Total (including those with State assistance under the Housing Act) NIL.

(b) Housing Conditions.

There were no Houses erected during 1943.

General conditions satisfactory. Old property not of a good standard. In a few cases there will be a tendency to overcrowding.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

Number of inspections made under Public Health Act	170
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	50
Number abated	50
Number of notices served (Informal)	30
(Statutory)	Nil

Inspection of Shops.

All shops are inspected twice yearly under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Acts, 1936. No action was taken under these acts.

Closet Accommodation 1943.

No. of middens, 1041. No. of closets attached to middens, 1208. No. of pail closets, 65. No. of movable ashbins, 1011. No. of houses with water carriage system, 942. No. of fresh water closets, 962. No. of waste water closets, Nil. No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles. 63.

Public Cleansing.

The method of collecting dry house refuse and refuse from earth closets and privies is carried out by direct labour, by means of a covered refuse collection vehicle.

The method of disposing of the above is by Controlled Tipping on tips owned by the Local Authority.

There are several privy middens in the area controlled by the Local Authority which require periodic cleansing and there is great difficulty in having this work carried out. The workmen engaged for this class of work are refusing to carry out their duties, and other labour is not available.

Inspection of Cowsheds and Dairies.

There are 411 Dairy Farms in the District ; of which 260 have been inspected during the year. As regards the conditions prevalent, although they are generally satisfactory, it is greatly to be regretted that the Council has not authority to refuse registration of cowkeepers using unsuitable premises. It is very important that the question of registration of premises which have been approved, during the war, by the Milk Production Officer of the War Agricultural Committee, should be reviewed after the war.

Inspection of Meat.

..... Since the outbreak of war, slaughtering has been centralised at Lancaster, and inspection carried out by the Lancaster Corporation Inspectors.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREAS.

Laboratory Facilities.

Swabs for Diphtheria are examined at the Isolation Hospital of the Lancaster and District Joint Hospital, Slyne Road.

Other Bacteriological specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and the Royal Infirmary, Preston.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious cases, the Joint Board Hospital Ambulance is available.

Other cases : Lancaster Corporation (Watch Committee) Ambulance.

Professional Nursing.

The district is provided for by the District Nursing Associations.

